

# HISTORY

## HISTORICAL PERIODS (Review)

Historians have divided the past into five periods, or ages. They are separated by important events which transformed people's way of life:

1. Prehistory
2. Ancient history
3. The Middle Ages
4. The Modern Age
5. Contemporary history

### ACTIVITY PART 1

➤ Read pages 80 and 81 in your class book.

### Historical periods

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**Elements of the past**

A. Cave painting in Cueva de Las Chimeneas, Cantabria, 16th century B.C.

B. The Parthenon, Athens, 5th century B.C.

C. The Walls of Avila, 12th-15th centuries.

D. The Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, 16th century.


E. Casa Milà, Barcelona, 20th century.

**Prehistory**

Prehistory began when the first **human beings** appeared. It is the most extensive historical period. It is divided into three periods: the **Paleolithic Age**, the **Neolithic Age**, and the **Metal Ages**.


The first human beings were **nomads**. They hunted, fished, and gathered fruit and vegetables from the land to survive. Later, they developed agriculture and farming. They became **sedentary** and built houses and villages.

They made tools out of stone and animal bones. They learned to make pottery and to work metals.



**Ancient history**

Ancient history began around 5,000 years ago, when **written language was invented**. The first civilizations appeared during this period, such as the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans. The Romans conquered the Iberian Peninsula between the 3rd and 1st centuries B.C. They called it Hispania. The Romans organized Hispania into provinces and imposed their customs and laws. Latin became the official language. They founded cities and introduced **Christianity**.



### Studying history


**The Middle Ages**

The Middle Ages began at the **end of the Roman Empire** in 476 A.D.

The **Visigoths**, one of the Germanic peoples that came from northern Europe, invaded Hispania and established a kingdom on the Peninsula.

In 711, the Muslims conquered the Visigoth kingdom and founded **Al-Andalus**. The **Christian kingdoms** joined together to expel the Muslims and expand their territory. This is known as the **Reconquest**. It finished at the end of the Middle Ages, when the Catholic Monarchs conquered the Kingdom of Granada.

During this period, cities grew and castles and monasteries were built. There were two main artistic styles: **Romanesque** and **Gothic**.




**The Modern Age**

The Modern Age began in 1492 with the **discovery of America**. There were many important discoveries and inventions in this period, such as the printing press.


In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Hapsburg dynasty ruled Spain. The first kings, Charles I and Philip II, created a great empire, which started to weaken in the 17th century. In the 18th century, a new dynasty, the Bourbons, began to reign.

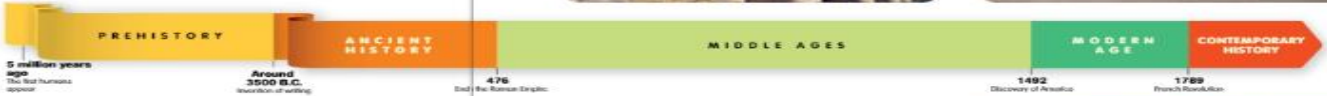
During this period, two artistic styles were developed: first, **Renaissance**, and then **Baroque**. In Spain, the 17th century is known as Spain's **Golden Age** for its artistic and cultural splendour. In the 18th century the ideas of the **Enlightenment** arrived in Spain.



**Contemporary history**

Contemporary history began in 1789, with the **French Revolution**. This is the period we live in.



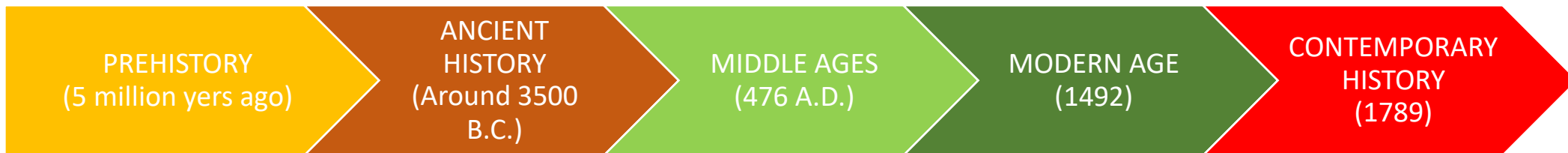


**ACTIVITIES**

- 1 **WRITING.** Explain why agriculture, farming and written language were important developments for human beings.
- 2 List the events that mark the beginning of each historical period.

## PART 2

- Write in your notebook the title “HISTORICAL PERIODS”.
- Then draw and complete the timeline. List the five events that mark the beginning of each historical period.



<b>HISTORICAL PERIOD</b>	<b>EVENT</b> that mark the beginning of each <b>historical period</b>
<b>PREHISTORY</b>	<b>The first humans appear.</b>
<b>ANCIENT HISTORY</b>	<b>Invention of writing.</b>
<b>THE MIDDLE AGES</b>	<b>End of the Roman Empire.</b>
<b>MODERN AGE</b>	<b>Discovery of America.</b>
<b>CONTEMPORARY HISTORY</b>	<b>French Revolution.</b>